

THE Commission of the General Assembly having at this and former Diets, had under Consideration the several Affairs referred to them, ordained that Presbyteries be wrote to, concerning these Particulars following, viz.

I. As to Popery, and other Irregularities of disaffected Persons, a Representation was sent thereanent to the Lords Justices, in the King's Absence, and their Excellencies were pleased to give Orders to all Sheriffs, and other inferior Magistrates, to be vigilant and exact in discharging the Duty incumbent on them, for Punishing and Preventing the Abuses complained of; and more particularly, to suppress Popish Schools and Seminaries; to apprehend Persons suspected to be Traffiqueing Priests or Jesuits, in Order to their Trial. Likewise to see the Letters of Orders of Preachers or Pastors, who hold Meeting-houses, duly recorded, and to shut up the Meeting-Houses of such as are not qualified in Terms of Law; and in Case of Obstinacy, to apply the Penalty of Six Months Imprisonment. And as to the Church's Part, the Commission could not at present see any Thing further incumbent on them, but to desire that Presbyteries and Ministers may peruse the Letter sent them by the Commission, dated the 10th Day of November 1720 Years, and set effectually about the Particulars therein recommended and enjoined by the Acts of the General Assembly, and to use their best Endeavours for extirpating Idolatrous and Superstitious Customs.

II. PRESBYTERIES are desired to take Notice of Schoolmasters who are disaffected to the Government, and proceed against them according to Law. And where Provision is not made for a School in every Parish, that the Directions laid down in the 4th Act of the General Assembly 1719, with Relation to the Building of a School and School-house, and modifying of a Salary and as to the Settlement of a Master, they may proceed according to that Act. And this Method being followed regularly, the Law may be made effectual in that Matter; and the Judges here are ready to do their Part therein, of which there are diverse Instances. And particularly upon the 6th Day of February last, the Lords by a solemn Decision have found, *That by the Act of Parliament anno 1696, ordaining a Schoolmaster to be settled in every Parish, with the Advice of the Heritors and Minister of the Parish, that the Nomination and Presentation of the Schoolmaster belongs to the Heritors and Ministers of the Parish. But found, That if the Heritors and Minister refuse or delay to present, after due Certification by Intimations from the Pulpit for that Effect, that then the Presbytery may meet and proceed and settle the Schoolmaster.* This Decision does very much clear the Matter; and 'tis hoped Ministers and Presbyteries will carefully observe the same, and not fail to give the due Intimations to these concerned, about Calling and Settling Schoolmasters, before they do it themselves. And Presbyteries are desired to report to the General Assembly or its Commission, their Diligence as to the Settlement of Schools, and what Parishes have Schools, and who want the same, and to send to the next Assembly a Return of Letters about the State of their Bursaries, as was formerly required.

III. THE Commission does hereby put Presbyteries in Remembrance, carefully to observe the Acts of Assembly concerning Students of Divinity, and that at licencing Probationers, Ordination and Admission of Ministers, the Questions prescribed by the 10th Act of the General Assembly, held in the Year 1711, be put to them, and that they sign the Formula according to that Act, and come under the Engagements therein contained; As also that all Masters in Colleges, and Schoolmasters, sign the Formula appointed by the Act of Parliament anno 1707, and 10th Act of the General Assembly 1700, and 13th Act General Assembly 1706; and likewise that Elders sign the Formula of the General Assembly 1694, Act 11th, according to the 11th Act of the General Assembly 1700.

IV. AND further, Presbyteries are entreated to put in Execution what is enjoined by the 4th Act of the General Assembly 1722, against Profaneness, and concerning Elders and Deacons; and that Questions at privy Censures be prepared, if not done already, and that the same be written upon the Presbytery Books, as was formerly recommended, and therein to have a Regard to the Particulars mentioned in the 4th Act of the General Assembly 1713, and 5th Act of the General Assembly 1723.

V. SOME

V. S O M E Years ago, there were Libraries sent down from charitable Persons in England; and fixed in diverse Places; and by the 11th Act of the General Assembly, anno 1709, it was recommended to such Presbyteries, as had not received any of these Libraries, to contribute among themselves, in Order to lay a Foundation for a Library in each Presbytery Seat; and also to endeavour to procure Collections for that End: The Commission does now, according to their Instructions, recommend to Presbyteries to consider of this Matter, and to appoint some to visit these Libraries, and compare the Books with the Catalogues sent from the Commission, and take an Account of what is wanting, and see that the same be timeously made up, also what Additions are made thereto, where these Libraries are placed, and how the printed Rules thereanent, whereof a Copy is herewith sent you, are observed, and report to the general Assembly, or its Commission.

VI. T H E Commission finding that the Right Honourable the Lord Reay is very desirous of having as many Ministers in his Country, as the Teinds, with the Contributions, will bear, and proposes to have a new Presbytery in these Bounds, and resolves himself to be at the next Assembly, in Order to have that Matter finally adjusted; the Commission does earnestly intreat all who are deficient, timeously to send in their Contributions for the Effect foresaid, to James Young of Killicanty, Merchant in Edinburgh, the Collector thereof, that so good a Work may not be longer retarded, and the Season lost. The Collector is to make his Accompts to the next Assembly, and then to give in a List of deficient Parishes.

VII. T H E General Assembly in the Year 1718, made an Act for raising a Fund for maintaining the indigent Widows and Orphans of Ministers; and there was another Act made in May last to that same Purpose; and this being a necessary and charitable Work, it is hoped Ministers and Presbyteries will timeously remember the same, because the Time of doing thereof is limited by these Acts.

VIII. T H E Clerk is ordered to class the Answers of the several Synods and Presbyteries, to this and former Letters from the Commission and Assembly, under their several Heads, and to lay the same before the Committee for Discipline; and therefore is desired you may timeously send in your Answer to every Head of the foresaid Letters. And that Presbyteries may be the more exact in Answering Letters from the Assemblies and their Commissions, they should take Care, not only to record the said Letters, but also their own Returns, in the Presbytery Registers; many do it, and the Neglect thereof in Synods has been often noticed by the General Assembly. These Things, in Name, and by Order of the Commission of the General Assembly, are signified by,

Your affectionate Brother, and

Servant in the LORD,

Ja: Smith modr

J. S.
Your Clerk is Desired To send to the Agent for the Church
in your Bounds and the time of their entry, also the
Vacancies And how and when Vacates.



Commission
 of the General Assembly
 12 March 1724